

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05
/134 W

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R 061439Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3671
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH
USMISSION USNATO
USINT HAVANA

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EO 11652N/A
TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, EMIN, PL, UR, COMECON
SUBJ: PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAIL LINE FROM SOVIET
FRONTIER TO KATOWICE

1. SUMMARY: AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 2 ISSUE OF TRYBUNA LUDU, WRITTEN
IN AN UPBEAT TONE SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN SOVIET REPORTAGE ON THE
BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY LINE, REPORTS ON PROGRESS IN BUILDING THE NEW
BROAD-GUAGE RAILWAY FROM THE SOVIET- POLISH FRONTIER TO THE NEW STEEL
MILL AT KATOWICE. ABOUT HALF OF THE LINE SHOULD BE COMPLETED
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BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSTRUCTION IS GOING AHEAD DESPITE EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER AND
BEHIND-SCHEDULE EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.
FROZEN GROUND IS BEING DYNAMITED TO MAKE EXCAVATIONS, AND A LARGE
BRIDGE IS BEING BUILT ACROSS THE SAN RIVER NEAR NISKO SO THAT "THE
FIRST SOVIET TRAINS" WILL BE ABLE TO REACH THE SULPHUR DEPOSITS

NEAR WOLA BARANOWSKA THIS YEAR. BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN DELAYED BY THE FAILURE OF STAROSIELCE STEEL CONSTRUCTION PLANT IN BIALYSTOCK VOVODSHIP TO DELIVER STEEL SPANS ON TIME.

3. THE ARTICLE ESTIMATES THAT THE FIRST SECTION OF THE LINE, FROM HRUBIEWZOW ON THE FRONTIER, TO WOLA BARANOWSKA, WILL BE OPERATIONAL BY DECEMBER, 1978. IN ADDITION TO THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE SAN, A LAAGE NUMBER OF OTHER BRIDGES, OVERPASSES, STATIONS, CULVERTS AND RELATED PROJECTS MUST BE BUILT. POWER LINES MUST ALSO BE ERECTED.

4. COMMENT: IF WORK IS COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE, APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THIS LINE, WHICH WILL EXTEND WESTWARD MORE THAN 300 KILOMETERS ACROSS POLAND, WILL BE OPERATIONAL BY EARLY 1979. WE HAVE NOTED VERY LITTLE MENTION IN THE POLISH PRESS OF SOVIET IRON ORE DELIVERIES OVER THIS RAILWAY AND NO MENTION AT ALL OF THE BRANCH LINE TO LUBLIN FOR SOVIET IMPORTS OF COAL.

5. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT THE NEW RAILWAY MAY FACILITATE SOVIET-POLISH INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION IN OTHER SECTORS BESIDES THE KATOWICE STEEL MILL, THE TARNOBREZEG SULPHUR DEPOSITS, AND THE LUBLIN COAL FIELDS. FROM NISKO IT WILL RUN ONLY A FEW KILOMETERS FROM STALOWA WOLA, WHICH PRODUCES TRACTORS AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT (SOME IN COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER). IT WILL ALSO RUN NEAR MIELEC WHERE POLAND'S AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY WILL BE PRODUCING THE SOVIET AN-28 AIRCRAFT. THE EASTERN STARTING POINT OF THE LINE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE UKRAINIAN CITY OF NOVOVOLINSK, THE SITE OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR PLANT WHICH HAS SOVIET, POLISH AND GDR INVESTMENT. THE NOVOVOLINSK PLANT IS FREQUENTLY CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL COMECON COOPERATION ORGANIZED BY THE SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATION INTERELEKRO. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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